

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

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INFO USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L LA PAZ 6007

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ILO, PORT, BL

SUBJ: ASSESSMENT OF WEC CONFERENCE

REF: A. STATE 168519, B. STATE 186432

1. LABOR ATTACHE DISCUSSED WORLD EMPLOYMENT CONFERENCE WITH GOB DELEGATE MARCO BLACUTH. BLACUTH NOTED THAT THE WEC HAD CONSIDERABLE DIFFICULTY ESTABLISHING PROCEDURES. WE TALKED SO MUCH ABOUT HOW TO DO THINGS THAT SOMETIMES WE FORGOT WHAT WE WERE DOING, HE OBSERVED. HOWEVER, HE FELT THAT FROM THE POINT OF VIEW OF THE GROUP OF 77, THE OVERALL RESULTS OF THE CONFERENCE WERE POSITIVE.

2. BLACUTH SAID THAT THE "G-77" DRAFT WAS ESSENTIALLY A LATIN AMERICAN DOCUMENT. HE ALSO NOTED THAT ALTHOUGH THE GROUP OF 77 MADE A SERIOUS EFFORT TO ACT AS A BLOC. THERE WERE SEVERE IDEOLOGICAL DIVISIONS AMONG THE MEMBERS (PARA 8 REF A). IN HIS OPINION, THE FINAL "G-77 DRAFT" REPRESENTED A FAIR COMPROMISE OF DIFFERING G-77 VIEWS. HOWEVER, BLACUTH LATER EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT THE RHETORIC OF THE GROUP OF 77 MIGHT HAVE IRRITATED THE USG AND LESSENERED THE LIKELIHOOD OF ITS REMAINING IN THE ILO. NONETHELESS BLACUTH THOUGHT THAT THE CONFERENCE PROVIDED A USEFUL FORUM FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES TO EXPRESS THEIR CONCERNS TO DEVELOPED NATIONS. THE FACT THAT THE FINAL WEC CONCLUSIONS WERE NOT TOTALLY SATISFACTORY TO ANY ONE GROUP SUGGESTED THAT A REASONABLE COMPROMISE HAD BEEN ACHIEVED.

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3. COMMENT: BLACUTH WAS MADE UNDERSECRETARY OF LABOR DEVELOPMENT
SHORTLY AFTER HIS RETURN FROM GENEVA. HE APPRECIATED HEARING
DEPARTMENTS ASSESSMENT OF ILO CONFERENCES (REF B) AND WAS PLEASED
TO HEAR THAT THE CONFERENCES HAD NOT RPT NOT PROVOKED IRREVER-
SIBLE USG DECISION TO WITHDRAW FROM ILO.
STEDMAN

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